

Amendments To The Specification

Please insert and add the following new paragraph between the Title and the first line:

This is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/979,920, filed on November 27, 2001, that this is a 371 of International Patent Application PCT/EP00/04939, filed on May 5, 2000, which has priority benefit on Italian Patent Application MI99A001233, filed on June 1, 1999.

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, line 6 to 9, with the following paragraph:

Maleic anhydride is a well known and versatile intermediate for manufacturing unsaturated polyester resins, pharmaceuticals or agrochemicals. It is usually produced by catalytic partial oxidation of aromatic (e.g. benzene) or non-aromatic (e.g. *n*-butane) hydrocarbons.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 3 to 6, with the following amended paragraph:

From the examples reported above it is clear that the best performance (i.e., the highest yield that is obtained for those catalysts [(Ex.)] Examples 3 and [4]4) which ~~fulfil~~ fulfill both the requirements of having a carbon content in the precursor of 1 to 2 wt.% and a residual carbon content after precalcination at 300°C in the air of 0.8 to 1.5 wt.%.